



As I reflect on my first year as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science, I can't help but marvel at the continued growth the Faculty is experiencing and the many changes that affected us this year alone.



A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

BY BRIAN LEWIS



CONGRESS 2010



EUREKA! FESTIVAL



CONSTRUCTION OF THE
CENTRE FOR STRUCTURAL
AND FUNCTIONAL
GENOMICS BUILDING



QUARTIER CONCORDIA

As you will read in this issue, the University received more than \$64 million through the Knowledge Infrastructure Program, an initiative of the Federal and Provincial governments, to support major research thrusts of the Faculty of Arts and Science. As a result, two new buildings are well on their way to completion on the grounds of the Loyola Campus and will soon house the **Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics** and the **PERFORM Centre**.

As I walk the grounds of the Loyola Campus and see the progress of the construction, I am in awe of the research opportunities that will be generated as a result of this investment, and proud of our faculty members and the tremendous impact their research and work will have on society.

And, as I walk Quartier Concordia in the heart of downtown Montreal, I am proud of Concordia's contributions to the revitalization of the City and of the University's commitment to improving the environment.

This year the University welcomed almost nine thousand academics from across Canada as we hosted Congress 2010 (Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences), participated in the Eureka Festival, hosted Science Career Day with the support of our alumni, and provided tours of our science labs to students from Paramount Studies, a summer camp.

\$64 M

RECEIVED THROUGH
THE KNOWLEDGE
INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM,
AN INITIATIVE OF THE
FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENTS

We also hosted events to congratulate our students for their academic achievements and our colleagues for their outstanding achievements in research, publication and teaching. You will read about some of these successes in the Snapshot section of this issue.

Looking to the future, I am pleased to introduce the Faculty's new tenure-track hires in this special issue of *Connections*. It's easy to talk about success in funding, but easy as well to celebrate our success in continuing to attract great new faculty.

These twenty outstanding individuals bring with them a wealth of knowledge and expertise in fields across all our sectors – the humanities, the sciences and the social sciences – and will play an important role in ensuring our students are well prepared to meet the many challenges life has to offer.

This is a strong, exciting Faculty to lead. As we move forward, I will be looking for opportunities to create links across our sectors, foster permeability across the Faculty for students and faculty, and enhance opportunities for everyone to grow and be creative.





ARTS AND SCIENCE NEW HIRES

INTRODUCING OUR 20 NEW TENURE-TRACK HIRES WHO JOINED CONCORDIA THIS SUMMER.

CEREN BELGE is an assistant professor in the [Department of Political Science](#). She holds a BA in political science from Bogazici University (Istanbul) and an MSc in Sociology from the London School of Economics. She received her PhD in Political Science at the University of Washington in Seattle in 2008. Before joining Concordia, she held a two-year research fellowship at the Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies. Her areas of interest include processes of state formation, state-society relations, legal pluralism, rights politics, and gender. Her dissertation, *Whose Law: Clans, Honor Killings, and State-Minority Relations in Turkey and Israel*, has won the best dissertation prize of the Law and Society Association and the Israel Studies Association. She teaches courses in Middle East politics, comparative politics, and gender.

CHRISTOPHER BRETT is an assistant professor of Cell and Molecular Biology in the [Department of Biology](#). He is also a nominee for the Tier II Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Cellular Science and Human Health. Brett holds a BSc and MSc in Physiology from the University of British Columbia, and a PhD in Cellular and Molecular Medicine from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Before joining Concordia, Brett pursued a postdoctoral fellowship in Biochemistry at the University of Washington in Seattle. He has taught pharmacy students and medical students at

UBC and JHUSOM, as well as elementary school students as part of the nationwide Let's Talk Science program. He received major funding from the American Heart Association during his doctoral studies and was awarded one of two top graduate prizes for his thesis work at Johns Hopkins. Brett's research focuses on cellular ion regulation and endocytosis, and how these processes contribute to neurological disorders like autism.

KRISTA BYERS-HEINLEIN is an assistant professor in the [Department of Psychology](#). Byers-Heinlein holds a BA in Psychology and Computer Science from McGill University. She completed both an MA and a PhD in Developmental Psychology from the University of British Columbia, which were supported by fellowships from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. Her research investigates language acquisition in infancy, focusing on infants growing up bilingual and the mechanisms that they use to acquire two languages simultaneously. She also works to understand how language strategies used by bilingual parents and bilingual families influence children's language learning. Byers-Heinlein has been involved with teaching in the areas of Developmental Psychology, Language Acquisition, Research Methods, and Statistics at the University of British Columbia, and the University of New Brunswick.

MIRIAM DÍAZ is an assistant professor of Spanish and Applied Linguistics at the [Department of Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics](#). Díaz earned an MA in Spanish Linguistics in 2004, an MA in Second Language Acquisition and Teaching in 2009 and a PhD in Second Language Acquisition and Teaching in 2010, all from the University of Arizona. Her research focuses on the acquisition of the phonetic systems of second (L2) and third languages (L3) and the effects of the former on the latter. Her research interests include the acquisition of the sound systems of second and third languages, the interrelation between L2 speech perception and production, development of L1, L2 and L3 phonetic categorization, cross-linguistic speech perception and production, and multilingualism and phonetics in general. Before joining Concordia, Díaz taught Spanish as a Foreign Language and Spanish Linguistics courses at both the undergraduate and graduate level at the University of Arizona.

PROSPER DOVONON is an assistant professor in the [Department of Economics](#). Dovonon holds an MSc in Mathematics from the *Université Nationale du Bénin* (Benin), an MSc in Statistics and Economics from the *École nationale supérieure de statistique et d'économie appliquée* (Côte d'Ivoire), and a PhD in Economics from the *Université de Montréal*. His research includes theoretical and applied Econometrics and Finance.

Before joining Concordia, Dovonon was Manager in the Research, Economics and Strategy division of Barclays Wealth in London (UK).

KARL HELE is an associate professor in the [School of Community and Public Affairs](#). Hele is a member of Garden River First Nation, and holds a doctorate in History from McGill University, a Master's degree in History from the University of Toronto, as well as a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and History from the University of Waterloo. His research focus is grounded in a desire to promote and write about his community and region's past. This has led Hele to write about the Anishinaabe encounter with colonialism and Christianity, how the international border has affected First Nations and Metis in the Great Lakes region, as well as the Hiawatha Pageant performed by the Anishinaabe. Additionally, he has an interest in understanding how stereotypes of First Nations have infiltrated on-line video gaming communities. He has previously taught at the University of Winnipeg's access program as a member of the Department of History and more recently as an assistant professor in Anthropology and First Nations Studies at the University of Western Ontario.

CHANTAL FRANCOEUR is a tenure-track lecturer in the [Department of Journalism](#). Francoeur holds a Bachelor of Law degree from *Université de Montréal* and an MA in Communication Studies from Concordia University. She is a member of the Quebec Bar Association and is presently pursuing her PhD in Communication

Studies at Concordia. Before joining the Department, Francoeur worked as a journalist for 17 years, and most of this has been in radio at Radio-Canada. She has worked for a wide range of programs, including the news, public affairs shows, science and technology forums and investigative special reports. Teaching has also been an integral part of her professional life for the past five years at *Université de Montréal*. She has taught radio journalism and the introductory course in journalism, covering the multifaceted world of Quebec media. Alongside these university-based teaching experiences, she has run the summer internship program at Radio-Canada for two years. Her research interests include ethnographic journalism, media convergence and public broadcasting.

SANDRA GABRIELE is an assistant professor in the [Department of Communication Studies](#). She holds an Honours BA in English Language and Literature from Wilfrid Laurier University, an MA in Women's Studies from the joint program at Dalhousie, St. Mary's and Mount Saint Vincent Universities and a PhD in Communication Studies from Concordia University. Gabriele was previously an assistant professor at the University of Windsor in Women's Studies and Communication Studies for four years. Among other awards, she has received an FQRSC postdoctoral fellowship, and was the Humanities Research Group Fellow at the University of Windsor for 2009-2010. She is currently a co-investigator on "Animating Modernity: The Development of the Weekend Newspaper in North America, 1889-1922," a SSHRC-funded project that investigates the ways in which the week-

end newspaper emerged and developed alongside other media, such as magazines, newsreels and radio. Her research interests include media and communication history, feminist media studies, and intermediality. She is currently engaged in a textbook project with Dr. Will Straw and Dr. Ira Wagman.

KIM MCDONOUGH is an associate professor in the [Department of Education's Applied Linguistics](#) program and a nominee for the Tier II CRC in Applied Linguistics. McDonough holds a PhD in Applied Linguistics from Georgetown University. Before joining Concordia, she worked at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Northern Arizona University. She teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in linguistics, language acquisition, psycholinguistics and research methods. Her research explores the complex relationships between the cognitive and environmental conditions that are optimal for promoting second language learning. She investigates the learning opportunities that occur when second language speakers engage in meaningful communication in order to identify effective ways of encouraging their linguistic development.

JOHN OH is an assistant professor in the [Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry](#). He is also a nominee for the Tier II CRC in Nanobioscience. Oh holds BSc and MS degrees from Hanyang University in Korea. In 2004, he earned his PhD from the University of Toronto. He then completed his postdoctoral training at the University of Toronto and Carnegie Mellon University



ARTS AND SCIENCE NEW HIRES

in Pennsylvania. He also has more than ten years of international industrial research experience in the Korea Chemical Company and Dow Chemical Company in Michigan. His research has been recognized with several prestigious awards including a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Postdoctoral Fellowship in 2004, and the Paints and Coating Industry (PCI) Outstanding Paper Award in 2010. He serves on the editorial board of *Polymers*. Oh's research focuses on the design and processing of macromolecular nanoscale biomaterials for biomedical applications.

ZACHARY PATTERSON is an assistant professor in the [Department of Geography, Planning and Environment](#) and a nominee for the Tier II CRC in transportation-land use linkages for regional sustainability. Patterson received his BA (Honours Anthropology) from McGill University in Montreal, his Master's (Economics) from Simon Fraser University in Vancouver and his PhD (Geography) from McGill. He was also a postdoctoral researcher at the *École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne* in Switzerland in the Transport and Mobility Laboratory. Professionally he worked as an economist at the NAFTA Commission for Environmental Cooperation and as transportation modeler at the Montreal regional public transportation planner, *l'Agence métropolitaine de transport*. His research focuses on the modeling of transportation, the environment, land-use and their linkages.

HOLLY RECCHIA is an assistant professor in the [Department of Education's](#) ECEE and Child Study programs. Recchia completed her PhD in the Department of Psychology at Concordia University. Most recently, she held a SSHRC-funded postdoctoral

fellowship at the University of Utah. She has taught undergraduate courses in child development, and served as the statistical consultant for the Centre for Research in Human Development (CRDH). She was also co-editor of *Dialogue* CRDH, a newsletter mandated to promote knowledge translation between academic disciplines, as well as between academia and the broader community. Her research focuses on how children's social and moral development occur in the context of close relationships with siblings, parents, and friends. She is particularly interested in how children make sense of and resolve disagreements with others. Most recently, she has examined how children construct a sense of themselves as moral agents during conversations with mothers about their conflicts with siblings and friends.

TED RUTLAND is a tenure-track lecturer in the [Department of Geography, Planning, and Environment](#). He joins the department from the University of British Columbia, where he is completing a PhD in the Department of Geography. His previous degrees were awarded by Dalhousie University and Mount Allison University. His doctoral research focuses on the city of Halifax, NS, and examines how changing conceptions of space and race have been integral to the practice of urban planning from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. His continuing research interests include the history of cities and urban planning, racialization, and biopolitics -- concerns that he will explore in his new home and research focus: Montreal.

TIM SEDO is a tenure-track lecturer of Chinese history in the [Department of History](#). He holds a BA in History and Asian studies from the University of Victoria

and is completing his PhD with the University of British Columbia. His research focuses on the social, cultural, and environmental history of late imperial China and pays particular attention to the Ming period (1368-1644). His current research concerns the history of locust control techniques in pre-modern China and how these ideas circulated globally through Jesuit networks. Owing to his many years spent skateboarding in China, he has also developed a keen interest in the history of skateboarding, youth culture and urban space in modern China and his work on the topic was published earlier this year in an edited volume entitled, *Cultural Autonomy: Frictions and Connections* (UBC Press). Before coming to Concordia, Sedo served as Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of History at McGill University where he taught a variety of courses on pre-modern and modern East Asian history.

JEAN-MICHEL ROESSLI is an assistant professor in the [Department of Theological Studies](#). He holds a Conjoint PhD in Theology and Religious Studies from the Faculty of Theology of the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, and from the Religious Studies Department of *l'École pratique des hautes études*, Paris. His areas of expertise include the history of Christianity (from late antiquity to the Reformation period), apocryphal literature, and the reception and interpretation of the Bible throughout the ages. Roessli has published a significant number of articles in peer-reviewed academic periodicals, and books on various topics related to Historical Theology. He actively collaborates with the AÉLAC (*Association pour l'étude de la littérature chrétienne*) as a co-director of the series "Apocryphes" (Brepols). He contributed to

the second volume of the *Écrits apocryphes chrétiens* published in the prestigious Parisian series "La Pléiade," and is also a member of the editorial board of the world-renowned *Revue de l'histoire des religions* and *Apocrypha*. Before joining Concordia, he was an assistant professor in the Department of Religious Studies of the University of Sudbury, Ontario, Canada.

SYLVIA SANTOSA is pleased to be joining the [Department of Exercise Science](#) as an assistant professor and a nominee for the Tier II CRC in Clinical Nutrition. She received her PhD from McGill University in Nutritional Science and is a registered dietitian. Prior to coming to Concordia, Santosa pursued postdoctoral research studies at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Through her training Dr. Santosa has been supported by federal scholarships including NSERC, the Heart and Stroke Foundation and the Canadian Diabetes Association. Her research focuses on the metabolic perturbations associated with obesity in the context of fat tissue biology and trafficking.

AMY SWIFFEN comes to the [Department of Sociology and Anthropology](#) at Concordia from the Department of Sociology at the University of Alberta, where she earned a PhD in Social Theory and Socio-legal Studies. She completed an MA in Sociology at Queen's University and a BA in Sociology at the University of Alberta. Swiffen's intellectual background is in social and political theory, including critical legal studies, psychoanalysis, biopolitics, post-structuralism, bioethics, philosophy of law and political theory. Her research is focussed on the relationship between law and society, particularly in new legal contexts, and has

been published in a wide variety of refereed journals. She has also been invited to present research at Cornell Law School and Columbia University. Her forthcoming book explores the relationship between law and morality in new forms of ethical and political thought, such as bioethics and theories of the biopolitical. Swiffen's current research is focused on obedience to authority and she is planning a conference on the end of history.

DAVID WALSH is an assistant professor of Microbial Ecology in the [Department of Biology](#) and a nominee for the Tier II CRC in Microbial Systems Ecology. Walsh holds a BSc in Microbiology from the University of Victoria and a PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Dalhousie University. He recently completed a Killam Trusts Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of British Columbia. Walsh's scientific interests are driven by the observation that Earth's ecology is governed by microorganisms, as revealed by their widespread abundance, high diversity, and central role in ecosystem function. His research aims to understand the ecological importance of microbial diversity through the application of systems biology tools, such as genomics, to the study of microbial community ecology. He hopes to describe and model the impact of human disturbances on microbial-mediated ecosystem processes, particularly the influence of global climate change on the health of Canada's oceans.

DARREN WERSHLER is an assistant professor in the [Department of English](#). He did his BA (first class honours) at the University of Manitoba, MA at the University of Alberta and PhD at York. Prior to joining the University, Wershler was a tenure-track

assistant professor in the Department of Communication Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University; taught on a contract basis in the York University Department of Communication Studies for three years, and, was the Senior Editor at Coach House Books. He is also part of the faculty at the CFC Media Lab TELUS Interactive Art & Entertainment Program, and a Research Affiliate of the IP Osgoode Intellectual Property Law & Technology Program. His areas of specialization include Canadian Literature, media history and digital media.

LOUELLYN WHITE is an assistant professor in First Peoples Studies, [School of Community and Public Affairs](#). She is Mohawk (Akwesasne) and mixed European and is originally from the Mohawk Valley of central New York. Her BA is in Psychology from SUNY-Utica and her MA in Counseling Psychology is from Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY. She completed a PhD in American Indian Studies from the University of Arizona with a focus on Indigenous education and language revitalization. Before joining Concordia University, she was a Postdoctoral Fellow in American Indian Studies at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. While at the University of Arizona she taught undergraduate courses in American Indian Studies. She is currently working on a book based on her research with the Akwesasne Freedom School. Areas of teaching and research interest include: Indigenous identity formation; Indigenous boarding/residential school experiences; and community participatory research.

THROUGH THE AUSPICES OF THE KNOWLEDGE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM, an initiative of the Federal and Provincial governments, the University received more than \$64 million in funding to support two initiatives of the Faculty of Arts and Science: the **Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics** and the **PERFORM Centre**.

The **Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics** supports fundamental and applied research into crop improvement and sustainable biotechnology. Current large scale projects include research into alternative energy sources and bioproducts that aim to secure Canada's future bioeconomy. This grant is funding the construction of a new wing that will house the Centre adjacent to the Richard J. Renaud Science Complex on the Loyola Campus.

The **PERFORM Centre** provides an integrated and comprehensive environment to promote healthier lives through changes in behaviour and lifestyle by offering: research opportunities for faculty within and outside of Concordia and for students at all levels; education through teaching, training, and formative skill development for students, faculty and the community, and preventative based programs such as nutrition, exercise, and pain management to the general public.



Adam S. Radomsky, associate professor in the Department of Psychology, was awarded the Distinguished Contributions to Public or Community Service Award by the Canadian Psychological Association at their annual convention. Dr. Radomsky received the award for his contributions to the Anxiety Disorders Association of Canada, the Quebec Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) Foundation, and for ongoing help and support for those suffering from OCD and other anxiety disorders.

Andrew G. Ryder, associate professor in the Department of Psychology was awarded the President's New Researcher Award by the Canadian Psychological Association at their annual convention. Dr. Ryder received the award for his general contributions to research combined with an evaluation of a recent paper; specifically, a cross-cultural comparison of depression symptoms in China and Canada, published in the May 2008 issue of *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*.

The Department of Communication Studies opened a **Media Gallery** in the CJ Building on the Loyola campus. The Media Gallery will exhibit the dynamic creative media work produced in Communication Studies as well as host innovative exhibitions by local, national and international media artists.

Chris Wilds, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, was renewed as a Tier II Canada Research Chair in Biological Chemistry. Dr. Wilds's research involves organic synthesis, biophysics and the biochemistry of molecular structure and DNA repair.

The **Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies** (MIGS) held press conferences in both Washington and Ottawa to present *Mobilizing the Will to Intervene: Leadership and Action to Prevent Mass Atrocities*. Will to Intervene's 2009 policy report contains concrete policy recommendations for the governments of Canada and of the US, as well as recommendations for journalists and civil society groups. President Obama's administration has enacted two of the policies called for in this ground-breaking report.

Yogendra P. Chaubey, professor and chair in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, co-authored a paper "Reciprocal symmetry, unimodality and Khintchine's theorem" with Govind S. Mudholkar (University of Rochester) and M. C. Jones (The Open University, Milton Keynes) that was published in Proceedings of Royal Society Series A in London.

Peter D. Pawelek, assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry was awarded a grant from the Thalassemia Foundation of Canada to study molecular mechanisms of a virulence factor protein from an opportunistic pathogen that affects thalassemia patients.

Matthias Fritsch, associate professor in the Department of Philosophy, was awarded the Humboldt Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers by Germany's Alexander-von-Humboldt Foundation.

Alexandre Champagne, assistant professor in the Department of Physics was awarded the 2010 Petro-Canada Young Innovator Award in the Strategic Research Cluster *Technology, Industry and Environment*. Dr. Champagne also received a 2010 University Research Award in the *Person and Society Category* (Emerging Award).



A quick glance at what our faculty, students and alumni are up to

snapshots

Ronald Rudin, professor in the Department of History was elected to the Royal Society of Canada. Dr. Rudin is the recipient of a 2010 University Research Award in the *Person and Society* category and was also awarded the 2010 National Council of Public History Book Award for "the best work published about or growing out of public history for his book: "Remembering and Forgetting in Acadie: A Historian's Journey through Public Memory" (U of T Press, 2009)

Mark A. Ellenbogen, associate professor in the Department of Psychology (CRDH) was renewed as the Canada Research Chair in Developmental Psychopathology. Dr. Ellenbogen's work involves multidisciplinary longitudinal research into the causes of social, academic and mental health problems in Canadian youth. Specifically, his research aims to help in the development of effective prevention strategies for mental health problems, such as depression. The studies he is leading examine the role of stress, family functioning, hormonal changes, and cognitive factors in determining what can lead to behavioral and emotional problems in children and adolescents.

Csaba Nikolenyi, associate professor in the Department of Political Science and Code Administrator for the Faculty, published a book titled "Minority Governments in India: The Puzzle of Elusive Majorities" with Routledge. The book offers a novel interpretation, from the perspective of rational choice theory, of the changes that have taken place in the national party system of India over the last two decades. It traces analytically the development of a fragmented multi-party system, recurring hung parliaments and minority coalition governments on the national scene since 1989. The book is published as part of the Routledge Contemporary South Asia Series.

James Pfaus, professor in the Department of Psychology (Centre for Studies in Behavioural Neurobiology) was awarded the "Frank A. Beach Award in Comparative Psychology" from Division 6 (Behavioral Neuroscience and Comparative Psychology) of the American Psychological Association. The award is shared with Jeff Bergdorff, Roger Kroes, and Joe Moskal from Northwestern University, Stefan Brudzynski of Brock University, and Jaak Panksepp at Washington State University, for a collaborative paper on a comparative analysis of ultrasonic vocalizations across play, mating, and aggression.

Frank Chalk, professor in the Department of History and Director of the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies was invited by the UN Office for the Prevention of Genocide to lead a number of seminars for UN officers and African government officials on the history of genocide, early warning of genocide, and genocide prevention in Kampala, Uganda. The workshops were held from September 15 - 25, 2010.

Amy Poteete, assistant professor, Department of Political Science, was awarded the Dudley Seers Memorial Prize for Volume 45 of the *Journal of Development Studies* for her article entitled "Is Development Path Dependent or Political? A Reinterpretation of Mineral-Dependent Development in Botswana". In addition, Dr. Poteete's book *Working Together: Collective Action, the Commons, and Multiple Methods in Practice*, co-authored with Marco A. Janssen & Elinor Ostrom, was recently published by Princeton University Press.

The Faculty of Arts and Science welcomed **Yumna Siddiqi** as a Fulbright visiting research chair in North American studies for the 2010-2011 academic year. Dr. Siddiqi, will "study how immigrant workers

in the garment industry articulate their experience in the context of labour organizing in response to global restructuring" while at the School of Community and Public Affairs.

Sherry Simon, professor in the Département d'études françaises, was awarded the André-Laurendeau prize in the humanities for her remarkable contribution to the promotion of québécois culture and the French language.

Fluxmedia presented a public lecture and vernissage by Stelarc on October 21st. Stelarc is an internationally renowned Australian performance artist and winner of the Ars Electronica Golden Nica 2010 Prize. Fluxmedia is a research-creation network located at Concordia University in Montreal.

Viviane Namaste, associate professor with the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, received this year's Grand Prize given by the Conseil québécois des gays et lesbiennes.

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A quick glance at what our faculty,
students and alumni are up to

snapshots



OUR STUDENTS

Siena Anstis, a recent graduate in journalism and anthropology, won the Forces AVENIR 2009 prize in the undergraduate category. This prestigious honor rewards students for their social commitment and involvement in projects that contribute to the greater good. “She worked as a freelance journalist in Kosovo and has been involved in a variety of school-based exchanges and humanitarian aid projects across Canada, in Africa and in Denmark. ... From the moment she came to Concordia University, Anstis joined the Concordia Volunteer Abroad Program and launched an HIV/AIDS screening program in Uganda. She then founded In Their Shoes, an organization whose mission is to raise awareness of world poverty and human rights issues among young Canadians.”

Vanmala Subramaniam, Graduate Diploma student in the Department of Journalism, “won a coveted CBC News Network Joan Donaldson Scholarship for 2010, upholding a tradition for Concordia’s Journalism program.”

Concordia University students: **Yesica Macias**, **Alex Wilson**, **Joanne Hui**, and **Vaimoana Heyman**, presented *Reflections on the Life of a Story: Engaging, Creating, and Dialoguing with Holocaust Testimony* at the Bearing Witness Memory, Representation, and Pedagogy in the Post-Holocaust Age conference which was held at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia from April 11–13, 2010.

Yafang Wang, PhD student in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics was awarded 5th place by the Education and Research Section for her presentation titled *Distribution of Discounted Compound Sums When the Mean of Inter-Arrival Time Is Small* which was presented at the Actuarial Research Conference (ARC) which was held at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, BC. This is the second year in a row that Ms. Wang has won an award for her presentation at ARC.

OUR ALUMNI

Liane Balaban, BA 03 (Political Science), was nominated for a 2010 Genie Award in the category of Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role for *One Week*.

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, BSc 89 (Chemistry), known for designing the large-scale public art installation transforming the sky over Vancouver for the duration of the Winter Olympics.

Johanna Skibsrud, MA 05 (English) received the 2010 Scotiabank Giller Prize for her novel *The Sentimentalist*. Her poetry has appeared in various publications, including Prism International, Exile, and Lichen Magazine. Her fiction, which first appeared through Delirium Press in 2005, has since appeared in The Stickman Review, and is upcoming in Glimmertrain Magazine.

Dr. Judith Shamian, BA 78 (Community Nursing), has been selected by the Women’s Executive Network as one of *Canada’s Most Powerful Women: Top 100*. As president and chief executive officer of the Victorian Order of Nurses, Judith Shamian has been a steady champion of the home and community care agenda in Canada.

Michael Ernest Sweet, MA 08 (Education), the founder of the Learning for a Cause Student Press and the Pearson Prize for Teen Literature, was awarded a 2009 Prime Minister’s Award for Teaching Excellence – Canada’s premier teaching award. Michael Sweet founded Learning for a Cause in 2004 and has published and promoted four award-winning anthologies of student writing in the years since.

Eric Siblin, BA 84 (History), MA 87 (History), and Carmine Starnino, BA 94, MA 01 (English), were both named as finalists for the 2009 Governor General’s Literary Awards in the category of English non-fiction for their respective books, *The Cello Suites: J.S. Bach, Pablo Casals, and the Search for a Baroque Masterpiece* and *This Way Out*.

Graham Rynbend, BSc 91 (Exercise Science – Athletic Therapy), is currently the Head Athletic Therapist for the Montreal Canadiens hockey team. He is part of the coaching and support team that brought the Montreal Canadiens to the Eastern Conference final in the 2010 NHL playoffs.



connections is published three times a year by Concordia University’s Faculty of Arts and Science. Its mandate is to provide current information on the many activities of the Faculty. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Faculty or the University.

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